SUMMARY

CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS is a competitive internal funding initiative, positioning interdisciplinary faculty teams to successfully compete for significant external funding greater than $1.5 million over three years that will enhance the stature and distinction of the University in all key areas of research, scholarship, and creative activities at Clemson University.

CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS provides seed grants that support leading-edge research and scholarship that capitalize on the existing intellectual capital at Clemson University. Preference is given to projects that are multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional and that advance the ClemsonForward strategic innovation clusters: advanced materials; cyberinfrastructure and big data science; energy, transportation and advanced manufacturing; human resilience; Health innovation; and the sustainable environment.

The sole outcome of funded CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS grants is the successful submission of significant external research proposal(s); as such, the proposal should clearly identify this as the primary outcome. It is well understood that a strong technological and organizational foundation must exist for competitive multi-disciplinary, and perhaps multi-institutional proposals. Funding is intended to serve as a catalyst to move these projects beyond the point of criticality for highly competitive submissions. By the nature of the targeted funding, proposals must include multiple faculty from at least three different departments and two colleges. Proposals with participation from across the University, including innovation campuses and research and education centers, are highly encouraged. Multi-institutional efforts may also be supported if Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the targeted proposal submission.

ELIGIBILITY

Tenured or tenure-track faculty and research faculty at Clemson University are eligible to submit proposals. Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty, as well as postdocs, are not eligible to lead projects but may be included in the research teams.

A PI who is leading a CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award is ineligible to compete for additional CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS funding until the proposal from the current award is successfully submitted to the external funding agency.

Past recipients of R-Initiative funding who did not comply with the terms of funding are ineligible.

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS

Solicitation-Specific Guidelines
The University will provide funding of up to $35,000 per team that plans to submit large (greater than $1.5 million over three years) external grant application(s) during the period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. A 1:1 cash match is required from the proposal teams. Matches may come from individual faculty members, centers, institutes, departments, colleges, or a combination of the sources.

Funds will be available to successful PIs as individual project accounts and will be maintained and managed by the Division of Research. The PI will work with his/her department/college to transfer the cash match to the individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Funds will be available once matching funds are transferred after July 1, 2020 and must be spent by June 30, 2021. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to those providing the matching funds and to the Division of Research.

R-Initiative Requirements:

- Funds may not be used to provide or supplement faculty salary. The requested total budget should be appropriate for the proposed project. Timeline must adhere to the project dates outlined in this call. Unnecessary inflation of requested budget may negatively impact the review.
- A Co-PI can be a non-Clemson employee, but no financial support will be provided outside of Clemson University.
- Funds can be used to pay hourly wages to undergraduate or graduate students. Support for other personnel may be allowable with proper justification.
- Attending, organizing, hosting, and/or participating in conferences as the sole purpose are not considered appropriate projects or products.
- As needed, funds may be used for travel. However, domestic and international travel as part of the proposed work must have sufficient justification and budgetary details.
- Expenditure of these funds must follow State procurement guidelines. State money cannot be used for personal gain (i.e., books, recordings [CDs, DVDs, etc.]) by which the author receives ANY portion of funds directly.
- All income received from sales are considered Clemson University revenue unless assignment of rights to the faculty member is granted by the Vice President for Research (VPR) and the Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF).
- Funds can be used to support scholarly activity related to the development of new teaching or Creative Inquiry techniques or practices but not for the actual teaching of a Creative Inquiry course.
- In the event the PI leaves the University during the life of the project, unspent funds will be returned to the Division of Research, and the project will be closed.
- No-cost extensions will only be reviewed in extraordinary circumstances. Second no-cost extensions will not be considered.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Course release (PI only)
- Equipment/facility access for data collection for the proposal
- Travel to engage program managers, meet with collaborators for proposal planning, or to conduct field work
- Organizing workshops or similar activities for the proposal team
- Limited and well-justified specialty analyses or testing by external parties for the proposal
- Materials/supplies for data collection for the proposal
Specialty software not available at the University
Transcription expenses
Proposal development staff/consultant/firm
Graduate student and postdoc stipends (only for well-justified, specific, project-related activities that clearly define how the student or postdoc will fit into the multidisciplinary team, what the student or postdoc will be expected to achieve, how this work is absolutely necessary for the success of the eventual external submission, and why this work cannot be obtained without the student or postdoc funding from other mechanisms).

UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES
- Faculty salary, except PI course release
- Funding requests for first-year graduate students
- Travel to conferences or symposia
- International travel
- Office furniture or equipment
- Computers or printers
- Laboratory renovations or upgrades
- Tuition remission
- Facilities and administrative (F&A) costs

DELIVERABLES
The primary outcome of a CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award is the successful submission of a major research proposal greater than $1.5 million over three years. This proposal may be submitted to federal agencies, foundations, corporate consortia, or any other external sponsor. Proposals must be submitted within one year from the expiration of the CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award. A copy of the submitted proposal should be sent to the Division of Research (rifs@clemson.edu) with the subject line LAST NAME_2020 CU SUCCEEDS Deliverable.

Should R-Initiative funding result in publication(s), PIs must acknowledge the impact of R-Initiative funding. For example, “This project was funded in part by Clemson University's R-Initiative Program.”

Awardees of R-Initiative funding are expected to present at the Research Symposium.

APPLICATION PREPARATION

Proposals that are not in compliance with the requirements and proposal instructions may be returned without review.

Format all documents using 12-point Times New Roman Font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8 ½ x 11-inch paper size.

Submit the proposal as a single PDF file with the following ordered sections:

A. **Cover Sheet** [1 page]
The official R-Initiatives Cover Sheet must be used and include:
- A clear and concise project title (CU Fellows: Project Title),
- The names of the PI, all co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key
collaborators, including graduate and undergraduate students, should be listed along with departmental affiliations; additional personnel may be listed on a separate page if not enough space is provided in the cover sheet,

- Center affiliations, if applicable,
- Total budget amount,
- Indication of prior R-Initiative funding, and
- Anticipated deliverables.

B. Abstract [1 page]

C. Technical Narrative and Novelty [3 pages]
   In the technical project description, address the novelty/originality of the proposal for the targeted submission(s).

D. Targeted Extramural Proposal Submission Plans [1 page]
   Provide the targeted extramural funding competition(s) for the planned proposal. If the targeted external competition requires an internal or external pre-selection (e.g., pre-proposal competition by the funding agency, limited submission in Clemson) in order to submit a full proposal, this section should include alternative funding targets should the team not be selected for full proposal submission. If the full proposal has previously been submitted for external support, a copy of the executive summary of the review from the agency to which it was submitted must be included with the application as a supplemental document. Describe how the comments from the previous review will be addressed.

E. Budget [NSF or NIH format]

F. Budget Justification [1 page]

G. Documentation of Cash Match Commitments and Other Resources
   Provide commitment emails or letters for the cash match funds, including their source(s). Provide a list of any other University cash support available for the proposal. Matching funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable matching funds are costs on another federal project, space, equipment, supplies on hand, etc. Fund sources not allowable are Fund 18 and Fund 20. Matching funds must be available during the project period.

   If the faculty team is already funded by other college or University-level seed funding initiatives (e.g., TIGER, FRDP, OYA, ADR Research Awards in the College of Education, Brooks Sports Science Institute), a copy of the funded proposal and its budget from the other initiative should be included in this section. Include a clear, specific justification of why additional funding is needed and how it will be used to increase the competitiveness of the proposal.

H. Biosketches [2 pages]
   Submit 2-page biosketches in NSF or NIH format for PI, and all Co-PI(s), collaborators and key personnel.

I. Letters of Support [optional]
J. List of Potential Reviewers (4 max.) with E-Mail Addresses [optional]
Faculty from any institution may be listed, but at least two must be current Clemson University faculty. Ineligible reviewers include department chairs and collaborators of the project team. Each person listed should be notified that he or she has been included and may be invited to review.

TIMELINE
September 11, 2019   Solicitation announced
February 26, 2020   Proposals due
May 13, 2020    Decisions announced

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE
Proposals are accepted from December 4, 2019 to February 26, 2020. All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must be received by 4:30 p.m., February 26, 2020 in InfoEd. PIs will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission. To ensure that all electronic signatures are received on time, faculty are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for routing and electronic signature at least two business days before the deadline. Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS
A review committee of Clemson University faculty will provide inter-disciplinary perspectives to evaluate the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Vice President for Research. External reviewers may be used, if needed. The proposal must be written in a clear and concise manner for a general audience. Avoid the use of jargon.

Evaluation Criteria:
- Clear identification of targeted solicitation(s) for submission and alternative submission opportunities if the targeted RFP is not issued or the proposal is not selected for funding
- Potential for the formation of competitive teams with organizational structures that provide confidence in the delivery of high-quality, targeted, external proposals
- Novelty of proposed topic and ideas for the targeted solicitation
- Multi-disciplinary and cross-college
- Potential collaborations with innovation campuses, research and education centers, and University research centers and institutes

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE
All applications selected for the award must have received required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

QUESTIONS
Questions about CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS can be directed to Kelly McSwain at kmcsuai@clemson.edu, 864-656-0260, or Diana Thrasher at dianas@clemson.edu, 864-656-3908, in the Division of Research.